28. (New) A method for enhancing sensitivity to abscisic acid in a plant, the method comprising: introducing into the plant a nucleic acid molecule that comprises an ABH1 polynucleotide sequence and thereby reducing the level of an ABH1 protein in the plant, wherein the ABH1 polynucleotide sequence is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1 or to a subsequence of at least 30 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, and inhibits the expression of the ABH1 protein.

29. (New) The method of claim **28**, wherein the ABH1 polynucleotide sequence is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (New) The method of claim **28**, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a promoter operably linked to the ABH1 polynucleotide sequence.

31. (New) The method of claim **30**, wherein the at least one promoter is a tissue-specific promoter.

32. (New) The method of claim **31**, wherein the tissue-specific promoter preferentially directs transcription in guard cells.

33. (New) The method of claim **32**, wherein the tissue-specific promoter is a KAT1 promoter.

34. (New) The method of claim **28**, wherein the nucleic acid is introduced into the plant through sexual cross.

35. (New) The method of claim **28**, wherein the nucleic acid is introduced into the plant using *Agrobacterium*.

36. (New) A transgenic plant with enhanced sensitivity to abscisic acid, the transgenic plant comprising a nucleic acid molecule that comprises an ABH1 polynucleotide sequence and having a reduced the level of an ABH1 protein, wherein the ABH1 polynucleotide sequence is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1 or to a subsequence

of at least 30 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, and inhibits the expression of the ABH1 protein.

37. (New) The transgenic plant of claim **36**, wherein the ABH1 polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:1 or is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

38. (New) The transgenic plant of claim **36**, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a promoter operably linked to the ABH1 polynucleotide sequence.

39. (New) The transgenic plant of claim **38**, wherein the promoter is a tissue-specific promoter.

40. (New) The transgenic plant of claim **39**, wherein the tissue-specific promoter preferentially directs transcription in guard cells.

41. (New) The nucleic acid of claim **40**, wherein the tissue-specific promoter is a KAT1 promoter.

42. (New) The transgenic plant of claim **36**, wherein the nucleic acid is introduced into the plant cell through sexual cross.

43. (New) The transgenic plant of claim **36**, wherein the nucleic acid is introduced into the plant cell using *Agrobacterium*.

REMARKS

I. The Invention

The present invention is based, at least in part, on the discovery that the ABH1 gene plays an important role in the signaling of the phytohormone abscisic acid (ABA) in plants. ABA induces stomatal closure in response to drought. More specifically, the invention relates to the discovery that loss or reduction of ABH1 function leads to enhanced sensitivity to ABA in plants, which renders the plants drought resistance.